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## EDITORIAL.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Academy, held October 3, 1900, Professor Roland P. Falkner presented his resignation as editor of the Annals, assigning as an imperative reason for the step, his acceptance of the position of chief of the bureau of public documents in the Congressional Library at Washington. As already announced in the *Bulletin* of the Academy, issued November 13, the board of directors chose Professor Henry R. Seager, editor of the Annals, to assume control January 1, 1901, and Professor Samuel McCune Lindsay, associate editor, to fill the vacancy created by Professor Seager's promotion.

In accepting Professor Falkner's resignation, the directors were keenly conscious of the loss which the Academy thereby sustained. Next to Professor James, Professor Falkner deserves the credit for whatever success the work of the Academy has attained during the eleven years since its foundation. An associate editor of the Annals from the date of the appearance of the first number in July, 1890, until Professor James resigned the editorship in October, 1895, he has since been editor-in-chief. During this long period of active editorial service he has had charge, successively, of each important department of the periodical, and each reflects to-day his talent for correlation and systematization. In addition to executive ability of a high order, Professor Falkner brought to his task an appreciation of literary values rare in a teacher of Economics. His discriminating criticism has had much to do with improving the literary form of the Annals.

On assuming control in January, 1896, Professor Falkner announced that, while it was not the purpose of the new board to introduce radical changes of policy, it would be its aim "to make the Annals not only a picture of the activities of the Academy and a repository for scientific papers, but so far as possible a complete record of current fact and discussion, which is of interest to the students of political and social science." How fully this aim has been realized is shown from a review of the volumes of the Annals issued under Professor Falkner's direction. In the departments entitled "Miscellany" and "Briefer Communications" have appeared interesting accounts of political and economic reform movements all over the world and fruitful discussions of theoretical and practical problems; under the head of "Personal Notes" a unique collection of biographical notices of the men who are recasting political and social science, either as teachers

or authors, in this country and abroad has been issued; the "Book Notes and Reviews" have embraced an ever-increasing number of titles; and the scope of the "Notes on Municipal Government" and the "Sociological Notes" has been considerably extended. Taking all these departments together, it is but just to Professor Falkner to say that under his direction during the last five years the Annals has contained a more complete "record of current fact and discussion of interest to students of political and social science" than is to be found in any other periodical. Such an achievement on the part of a salaried editor, with unlimited funds at his disposal to pay for contributions, would be a matter for congratulation. In view of the fact that the editor of the Annals receives no compensation and that contributions are unpaid, Professor Falkner's success appears all the more deserving of praise.

Besides securing many valuable papers for the Annals during his editorship, Professor Falkner made notable contributions himself, as is shown in the "Personal Note," which appears on another page. Especially deserving of mention are his articles on "Crime and the Census" (Vol. IX) and "The Development of the Census" (Vol. XII), which, it is believed, may have a salutary influence on the work of the present Census Bureau, and his article on "The Currency Law of 1900" (Vol. XVI), which contains a masterly exposition of the weak points in that statute.

This sketch of Professor Falkner's services to the Academy and to political and social science, would be incomplete if no word was said of the motives which induced him to accept a position in the Congressional Library. In entering upon his new work he has felt that he does not sever his connection with the academic world, for he hopes to contribute toward making the National Library, already strong in all that concerns economics and history, more directly serviceable to scholars and investigators. He also anticipates that increased opportunities for research will enable him to devote his pen to economic discussions as frequently as in times past. Especially, did he desire it to be understood on withdrawing from direct participation in control over the Annals that his interest in the Academy would remain as strong in Washington as it had been in Philadelphia.

Professor Lindsay, the new member of the board of editors, needs no introduction to readers of the Annals. That he was willing to assume the duties of an associate editor in addition to the responsibilities of the first vice-president of the Academy and chairman of the important committees on meetings and on members, attests his devotion to the Academy, at the same time that it greatly strengthens the editorial force. With his appointment the separation between the

publishing activities of the Academy and its activity in arranging public meetings, which seemed necessary for a time, is brought to an end. It is confidently expected that the result of this change will be a more harmonious development of the Academy's work along all lines.

The re-organized board contemplates only changes in harmony with the program outlined by Professor Falkner five years ago. The departments of "Miscellany" and "Briefer Communications," combined under the head of "Communications," will be expanded, so as to cover even more fully than in the past matters of current interest not dealt with in the "Principal Papers." The Book Department will remain under the direction of Doctors Young and Cleveland, and will continue the policy inaugurated by Dr. Young of extending the "Notes," so as to do ampler justice to the increasing literature on political and social science. The "Department of Notes" is considerably enlarged by the addition of "Notes on Colonies," conducted by Dr. Young, and "Industrial Notes," conducted by Dr. Meade. The "Notes on Municipal Government" will continue under the direction of Professor Rowe and Dr. Allen.

The scope of the "Sociological Notes" is so extensive that it has seemed wise to distinguish in future "Notes on Sociological Theory" from "Notes on Philanthropy and Social Reform." The former will be under the direction of Dr. Hagerty, Senior Fellow in Sociology in the University of Pennsylvania, and the latter under that of Dr. Edward T. Devine, Secretary of the Charity Organization Society of New York City. Dr. Devine, through his official position and through his experience as associate editor and member of the executive committee of the board of managers of the Charities Review and as editor of Charities, is especially well qualified for the task he has undertaken and the board feels that it is to be congratulated on securing his aid.

In order to make room in the Annals for the new departments it will be necessary to abridge somewhat the space allotted to leading articles. It is believed that such a change will meet with the hearty endorsement of readers of the Annals, many of whom have expressed the view that it is the departments which give its chief value to the publication. At the same time a persistent effort will be made to secure timely papers and the co-operation of Academy members to this end, and toward the improvement of the Annals in all directions is earnestly requested.

HENRY R. SEAGER.